

HEALTH  
5 JUL 56  
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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF WOKING

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*Annual*  
**REPORT**

*of the*  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*together with the Report of the*  
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
*for the year*

1955



# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WOKING

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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND DRAINAGE COMMITTEE, 1955-1956

*Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR A. D. CAMPBELL, B.SC., L.C.P.

*Vice-Chairman:*

COUNCILLOR F. E. SOWDEN, J.P.

*The Chairman of the Council:*

COUNCILLOR J. A. TERRY, J.P., M.A.

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| CLR. A. R. BULLEN        | CLR. G. A. KNOWLER |
| CLR. THE LORD CAWLEY     | CLR. C. D. NASH    |
| CLR. MRS. D. E. GALE     | CLR. H. P. NIND    |
| CLR. W. J. GREEN, F.C.A. | CLR. E. J. SMITH   |

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health:*

N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.) (retired 19.12.55)

C. A. MCPHERSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., L.D.S., D.P.D.  
(commenced 20.12.55)

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:*

A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

A. BARNETT, M.S.I.A. (commenced 1.10.55)

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

H. W. MONKS, M.S.I.A.      J. D. SMITH, M.S.I.A. (ceased 3.9.55)

J. S. GARFORTH, M.S.I.A.

P. G. H. SMITH, M.S.I.A. (commenced 1.4.55)

*Clerical Staff:*

MISS M. COTTINGHAM (Chief Clerk)

MRS. P. M. PIDGEON

MRS. J. J. DEVONSHIRE



## To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1955.

In affording me this privilege in the appointment as your Medical Officer from December following the resignation of Dr. Hood Linzee, you will appreciate I know that I shall be primarily concerned with setting out the facts and figures as required by the Ministry of Health for a period in which I was especially concerned with the health of your area so far as the personal health services only were concerned. As the respective division of duties of all public health staffs according to their allegiance to the personal or environmental health services is becoming less definable, I am indeed grateful for the opportunity which has been presented to me to try to co-ordinate such spheres of activity as have a common interest in the prevention of disease.

From the statistics we find a repetition of certain favourable trends such as a slightly increasing birth rate and a falling death rate, although I would wish to draw your attention to the risk of placing much significance on figures which deal with relatively small populations.

It is very satisfactory, however, to note an absence of maternal deaths and a low figure for the Infantile Mortality Rate.

On the infectious disease side the incidence of measles was high, which one expects every alternate year, but the complication rate was low and there were no deaths. During the summer months the gastro-intestinal infection of sonnei dysentery appeared, mainly in the Old Woking and Mayford areas, and whilst it was primarily brought to our notice by illness in the younger age groups of school children, it was undoubtedly more widespread than was represented by the 86 cases which were notified. As the main incidence of the infection was concentrated into the months of April and May, the routine investigations and follow-up of the families and contacts made especial calls on the Chief Sanitary Inspector's staff in conjunction with the Health Visitors. This is an infection which is all too prevalent in any enlightened community and which may be expected to continue to disrupt especially school life, until ways and means can be found of training children in the elementary measures of hygiene and in seeing that they are enabled to put these practices into operation in the schools. Whilst

the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis continues to rise due mainly to transfers of persons into the area, the control of the disease at the moment by chemotherapy, antibiotics and the improvement of chest surgery is such that the chances of cure in the majority of early cases is well founded. On the preventive side the extension of the B.C.G. vaccination to include all children age 13–14 years whether they attend a private or maintained school is an obviously desirable one and the district is fortunate in possessing the services of a miniature radiography set at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, where weekly sessions are held at which any member of the general public may attend. The value of a routine chest X-ray for all persons in adult life is at the moment underestimated as tuberculosis is by no means the only condition of the lungs which requires early recognition for effective treatment.

The number of houses erected by the local authority continues to rise as do those of private enterprise, and in all just over 700 additional homes became available.

In conclusion I would wish to convey my sincere thanks to all members of the Council, to the Clerk and all Chief Officers and their staffs for their courteous reception and the help they have afforded me in my new office.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. McPHERSON,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1955, 55,940.

| Year | Houses | Population | Average No.<br>per House |
|------|--------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1911 | 4,072  | 24,808     | 6·0                      |
| 1921 | 5,078  | 26,430     | 5·8                      |
| 1931 | 6,853  | 29,950     | 4·4                      |
| 1941 | 10,743 | 47,770     | 4·4                      |
| 1951 | 11,949 | 49,310     | 4·1                      |

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to rate books, 15,339.

Rateable Value, £575,076.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £2,260 (net).

### Social Conditions

Woking is a residential town situated within 25 miles of London and consequently a substantial number of the residents find employment in London.

A total of 1,947 acres comprises common and open spaces and there are many recreation grounds to provide open air facilities for the children and adults. In the 34-acre Woking Park there is in addition to normal activities an open-air swimming pool.

During the year 4,971 men and 1,393 women took advantage of the available facilities at the slipper baths.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents was rather lower than the figure for the post-war years.

| Classification      | Dec. 31st<br>1951 | Dec. 31st<br>1952 | Dec. 31st<br>1953 | Dec. 31st<br>1954 | Dec. 31st<br>1955 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Male Adults ..      | 39                | 96                | 78                | 70                | 48                |
| Male Juveniles ..   | 2                 | 4                 | 34                | 9                 | 7                 |
| Female Adults ..    | 40                | 58                | 73                | 52                | 42                |
| Female Juveniles .. | 2                 | 3                 | 42                | 6                 | 7                 |
| Totals .. ..        | 83                | 161               | 227               | 137               | 104               |



| Vital Statistics |  |    |    | 1955  | 1954  |
|------------------|--|----|----|-------|-------|
| (1)              | Number of live births  | .. | .. | 881   | 820   |
| (2)              | Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)                                  | .. | .. | 15.75 | 15.18 |
| (3)              | Birth Rate (corrected by Registrar General's comparability factor) | .. | .. | 15.91 | 15.33 |
| (4)              | Number of still-births per 1,000 total births                      | .. | .. | 16.74 | 16.79 |
| (5)              | Number of deaths   | .. | .. | 698   | 686   |
| (6)              | Death Rate (per 1,000 population)                                  | .. | .. | 12.48 | 12.70 |
| (7)              | Death Rate (corrected by Registrar General's comparability factor) | .. | .. | 11.48 | 11.68 |
| (8)              | Natural increase of population                                     | .. | .. | 183   | 134   |
| (9)              | Number of deaths of infants under one year                         | .. | .. | 14    | 21    |
| (10)             | Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births                        | .. | .. | 15.89 | 25.61 |
| (11)             | Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth           | .. | .. | —     | —     |

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

|   |    |    |    |       |     |     |
|---|----|----|----|-------|-----|-----|
| Live Births:—                                   |    |    |    | Total | M.  | F.  |
| Legitimate                                      | .. | .. | .. | 833   | 422 | 411 |
| Illegitimate                                    | .. | .. | .. | 48    | 21  | 27  |
| Birth Rate, 15.75 per 1,000 population          |    |    |    |       |     |     |
| Adjusted Birth Rate, 15.91 per 1,000 population |    |    |    |       |     |     |
| Still-births                                    | .. | .. | .. | 15    | 8   | 7   |
| Rate per 1,000 total births, 16.74              |    |    |    |       |     |     |
| Deaths  | .. | .. | .. | 698   | 310 | 388 |
| Death Rate, 12.48 per 1,000 population          |    |    |    |       |     |     |
| Adjusted Death Rate, 11.48 per 1,000 population |    |    |    |       |     |     |

The crude birth and death rates for Woking are strictly not comparable with the figure for England and Wales. In order to arrive at comparative figures and make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales the Registrar General has introduced comparability factors. These figures for Woking are 1.01 and .92 for births and deaths respectively, and the adjusted rates have been calculated accordingly.

|   |    |    |    |  |       |
|---|----|----|----|--|-------|
| Deaths from puerperal causes:—                          |    |    |    | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births |       |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion                         | .. | .. | .. | ..   | —     |
| Death rate of infants under one year of age:—           |    |    |    |  |       |
| All infants per 1,000 live births                       | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 15.89 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 15.61 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 20.83 |
| Deaths from malignant neoplasms (all ages)              | .. | .. | .. | ..   | 120   |
| Deaths from measles (all ages)                          | .. | .. | .. | ..   | —     |
| Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)                   | .. | .. | .. | ..   | —     |
| Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)            | .. | .. | .. | ..   | —     |

### Births

The following table shows the number of live births and the birth rate over the past 5 years.

| Year | Number of Births | Birth Rate | Birth Rate for England and Wales |
|------|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1951 | 689              | 14·25      | 15·5                             |
| 1952 | 719              | 14·58      | 15·3                             |
| 1953 | 747              | 14·29      | 15·5                             |
| 1954 | 820              | 15·33      | 15·2                             |
| 1955 | 881              | 15·91      | 15·0                             |

It is of interest to note that the actual number of births which occurred in the Woking U.D. during 1955 was 1,560, although only 881 were credited to Woking. The remainder (being born to women not normally resident in Woking) were transferred to other Districts.

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 11 years, the natural increment for this year being 183.

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General during 1955 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was 881—443 males and 438 females, the birth rate being 15·75 per 1,000 of the population. Of the total number of births 833 were legitimate and 48 (5·45 per cent) illegitimate.

In addition there were 15 still births, 8 male and 7 female.

| Causes of Death during 1955             |    |    |    |    |    |    | Male | Female |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|--------|
| All causes                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 310  | 388    |
| Tuberculosis, respiratory               | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2    | 2      |
| Tuberculosis, other                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | 1      |
| Syphilitic disease                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4    | 3      |
| Whooping cough                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | —      |
| Diphtheria                              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | —      |
| Meningococcal infections                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1    | —      |
| Acute poliomyelitis                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | —      |
| Measles                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | —      |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | 1      |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5    | 6      |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23   | 3      |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1    | 12     |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | 6      |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34   | 30     |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3    | 1      |
| Diabetes                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    | 1      |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27   | 46     |
| Coronary disease, angina                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37   | 41     |
| Hypertension with heart disease         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7    | 11     |



Causes of Death during 1955—*contd.*

|  | Male | Female |
|--|------|--------|
| Other heart disease .. .. .                    | 73   | 121    |
| Other circulatory diseases .. .. .             | 12   | 14     |
| Influenza .. .. .                              | —    | 1      |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                              | 12   | 30     |
| Bronchitis .. .. .                             | 20   | 10     |
| Other diseases of respiratory system .. .      | 2    | 4      |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .          | 3    | —      |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .     | 1    | —      |
| Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .                | 5    | 3      |
| Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .                | 5    | —      |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .        | —    | —      |
| Congenital malformations .. .. .               | 1    | 4      |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. . | 21   | 33     |
| Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .                | 8    | 2      |
| All other accidents .. .. .                    | 1    | 2      |
| Suicide .. .. .                                | 2    | —      |
| Homicide and Operations of War .. .. .         | —    | —      |

## Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 698—310 males and 388 females, equal to a death rate of 12·48 per thousand of the estimated population, or an adjusted rate of 11·48.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 147.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford .. .. .   | 7  |
| St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey .. .. .   | 64 |
| London Hospitals .. .. .                 | 17 |
| Other Hospitals and Institutions .. .. . | 35 |

There were 67 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 36 males and 31 females.

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Malignant neoplasms .. .. .                | 120 |
| Heart disease .. .. .                      | 290 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. . | 73  |
| Other circulatory diseases .. .. .         | 26  |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                          | 42  |
| Bronchitis .. .. .                         | 30  |
| Other respiratory diseases .. .. .         | 6   |

## Malignant Neoplasms

Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms were responsible for 120 deaths or 17·19 per cent of total deaths.

## Diseases of the Heart and Circulation

There were 389 deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulation. This figure represents 55·73 per cent of the whole deaths.

## Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases

There were 42 deaths due to Pneumonia, 30 to Bronchitis, and 6 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 78 or 11·17 per cent of total deaths.

The following table sets out the death rates per thousand of the population for certain diseases:—

|                                    |    |    |    |    |    |      |
|------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Bronchitis                         | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·54 |
| Cancer                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2·15 |
| Heart Disease                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5·18 |
| Heart Disease and Circulation      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6·95 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·14 |
| Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·02 |
| Typhoid and Para-Typhoid           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | —    |
| Pneumonia                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·75 |
| Influenza                          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·02 |
| Tuberculosis                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0·09 |

## Deaths due to Violence

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

|                     |    |    |          |    |    |   |
|---------------------|----|----|----------|----|----|---|
| Road Traffic deaths | .. | 10 | Drowning | .. | .. | 1 |
| Falls               | .. | .. | ..       | .. | .. | 2 |

In addition to the above there were 2 suicides.

## Infantile Mortality

There were 14 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 15·89 per 1,000 live births, compared with 24·9 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 20·83 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

| Cause of Death                  | Under 1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total No. under 1 month |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Prematurity .. ..               | 3            | —         | —         | —         | 3                       |
| Meningitis .. ..                | —            | 1         | —         | —         | 1                       |
| Inter Cranial haemorrhage .. .. | 2            | —         | —         | —         | 2                       |
| Atelectasis .. ..               | 2            | —         | —         | —         | 2                       |

| Cause of Death                 | 1-3 months | 4-6 months | 7-9 months | 10-12 months | Total deaths under 1 year |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Broncho Pneumonia              | —          | 1          | —          | —            | 1                         |
| Congenital Heart Disease .. .. | —          | 1          | —          | —            | 1                         |
| Septicaemia .. ..              | —          | —          | —          | 1            | 1                         |
| Meningitis .. ..               | 1          | —          | 1          | —            | 2                         |
| Uraemia .. ..                  | 1          | —          | —          | —            | 1                         |

### Comparative Birth and Death Rates for the Year 1955

|                   | Rate per 1,000 Home Population |              | Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population | Rate per 1,000 Live Births |   |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|---|
|                   | Live Births                    | Still Births |   | Total Deaths under 1 Year  |   |
| England and Wales | 15·00                          | ·35          | 11·7  | 24·9*                      | — |
| Woking .. ..      | 15·75                          | ·27          | 12·48                                       | 15·89                      | — |

\* Per 1,000 related live births.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

**(a) Laboratory Facilities**

The district is fortunate in having the services of St. Peter's Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory and it is especially used by the majority of general practitioners. In addition the Public Health Laboratory at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford, gives most valuable service for the examination of any large scale investigation and in addition receives the Public Health Department's routine samples of food of all kinds, especially milk, water and ice cream. As previously, samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

During the year the following specimens were examined by the Public Health Laboratory at Guildford:—

|                      |    |    |    |    |     |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Specimens of faeces  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37  |
| Specimens of sputum  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1   |
| Samples of milk      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 102 |
| Samples of ice cream | .. | .. | .. | .. | 54  |
| Samples of water     | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48  |

**(b) Ambulance Facilities**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from the Ambulance Control Station, Guildford Road, Chertsey (Tel. Woking 3040) which is operated directly by the County Council. One County ambulance is garaged in Boundary Road, Woking, and this is fully manned to give service throughout the twenty-four hours. There is also one Red Cross ambulance. This is fully manned during the day time, but only partially so by night.

**(c) Nursing in the Home**

Twelve nurses who are acting in the capacity of District Nurses or Domiciliary Midwives are provided by the Surrey County Council for work in the Urban District, and during the year 1955 some 23,000 visits were paid to 1,148 patients. Details of these nurses are given below.

|                        |                           |             |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Miss H. F. Bisseneek   | Helvetia, High Street,    | Woking 511  |
|                        | Horsell                   |             |
| Misses L. M. J. B. and | Carberry, Kingfield Road, | Woking 1559 |
| M. R. B. Callender     | Woking                    |             |

|  |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| Miss M. Cook   | 1 Ulwin Avenue, Byfleet                        | Byfleet 2658   |
| Miss G. Gee  | 91 Woodlands Avenue,<br>West Byfleet           | Byfleet 448    |
| Mrs. G. M. Holliger                                    | Casilla, Madeira Road,<br>West Byfleet         | Byfleet 2046   |
| Mrs. H. Rubner   | Journey's End, 22 Vic-<br>toria Road, Knaphill | Brookwood 3230 |
| Mrs. A. Brunskill                                      | St. Teresa, 16 Victoria<br>Road, Knaphill      | Brookwood 3298 |
| Mrs. M. E. Backshall                                   | Savernake, Connaught<br>Road, Brookwood        | Brookwood 2125 |
| Miss L. Wilson,<br>Miss J. M. Pollard<br>Miss B. Eaton | St. Fillans, Maybury Hill,<br>Woking           | Woking 2732    |

#### (d) Hospitals

The district is well served especially by the following hospitals, the first three named being in the Urban District Council's boundary.

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Rowley Bristow Hospital, Pyrford.

Brookwood Hospital.

St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey.

Ottershaw Hospital—Infectious Diseases and Chronic Sick.

A clinic for the treatment of chest diseases is held at the Surrey County Council Clinic, Clarence Avenue, Woking, and the Victoria Hospital, Woking.

The clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases are situated at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

The following sessions are held at Woking and District Victoria Hospital:—

|          |    |    |    |    |                    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|
| Males .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Thursday, 5–7 p.m. |
| Females  | .. | .. | .. | .. | Tuesday, 4–7 p.m.  |

#### National Assistance Act, 1948

No cases were reported to the Department during the year, and no action was deemed necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

### Ottershaw Isolation Hospital

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1955:—

|                     |    |    |    |         |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---------|
| Scarlet Fever       | .. | .. | .. | 4 cases |
| Measles             | .. | .. | .. | 9 „     |
| Whooping Cough      | .. | .. | .. | 3 „     |
| Chicken Pox         | .. | .. | .. | 3 „     |
| Gastro-enteritis    | .. | .. | .. | 4 „     |
| Glandular Fever     | .. | .. | .. | 2 „     |
| Infective Hepatitis | .. | .. | .. | 1 „     |
| Poliomyelitis       | .. | .. | .. | 8 „     |
| Erysipelas          | .. | .. | .. | 5 „     |
| Other Diseases      | .. | .. | .. | 21 „    |
| Total               |    |    |    | 60      |

### MATERNITY SERVICES

The Maternity Hospital in Heathside Road continued its valuable services and during the year 1,393 patients were admitted, a number slightly in excess of that for 1954. Of these slightly less than half were mothers normally resident outside the Urban District area.

*Clinics.*—Ante-natal clinics are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings and afternoons and Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Post-natal clinics are held every Monday morning except the second Monday of each month. Baby clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoon. Fertility clinics are held every Wednesday morning.

During the year the Woking and District Victoria Hospital showed the following figures:—

|                                     |    |    |        |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Number of In-patients admitted      | .. | .. | 1,657  |
| Number of Out-patient attendances:— |    |    |        |
| Consultative Clinics                | .. | .. | 11,339 |
| Casualty                            | .. | .. | 17,267 |
| V.D. Clinics                        | .. | .. | 559    |



## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CLINICS

| <i>Centre</i>   | <i>Address</i>                         | <i>Clinic</i>                          | <i>Day</i>  |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| WOKING          | Maternity Hospital,<br>Heathside Road  | Ante-natal                             | Wednesday, p.m.   |
|                 | S.C.C. Clinic,<br>Clarence Avenue      | Welfare<br>Dental                      | Friday, a.m.<br>Wednesday, p.m.<br>Tuesday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Thursday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Friday, a.m. and p.m. |
|                 | Penlee, Claremont<br>Avenue            | Eye                                    | Thursday, a.m. (1st)<br>Thursday, p.m.  |
|                 |  | Minor<br>Ailments                      | Wednesday, a.m.   |
|                 |  | Child<br>Guidance                      | Full time   |
|                 |  | Speech<br>Dental                       | Full time<br>Monday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Tuesday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Thursday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Friday, a.m. and p.m.                          |
| BYFLEET         | Methodist Hall,<br>Old Byfleet         | Welfare<br>Dental<br>Minor<br>Ailments | Wednesday, p.m.<br>Thursday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Friday, a.m. and p.m.<br>Thursday, a.m.   |
| HORSELL         | The Village Hall                       | Welfare<br>Minor<br>Ailments           | Friday, p.m.<br>Friday, p.m.  |
| KNAPHILL        | Trinity Church Hall,<br>Chobham Road   | Welfare<br>Minor<br>Ailments           | Friday, p.m.<br>Friday, p.m.  |
| WESTFIELD       | St. Peter's Church<br>Hall, Old Woking | Welfare<br>Minor<br>Ailments           | Tuesday, p.m.<br>Tuesday, a.m.  |
| ST. JOHN'S      | Memorial Hall                          | Welfare<br>Minor<br>Ailments           | Thursday, p.m. (2nd and<br>4th)<br>Thursday, p.m. (2nd and<br>4th)  |
| SHEER-<br>WATER | St. Michael's Hall                     | General<br>Medical<br>Welfare          | Monday, a.m.<br>Monday, p.m.  |

## WELFARE FOOD SERVICES

The Welfare Foods may be obtained from any of the above Welfare Clinics and in addition we are indebted to the good services of the W.V.S. who distribute as follows:—

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Sharrard House, Heathside Road,<br>Woking | Monday–Friday,<br>2.15–4.30 p.m.  |
| 121 Chertsey Road, Woking                 | Monday–Friday,<br>10 a.m.–12 noon |

## CHIROPODY SERVICES FOR OLD PEOPLE

A Chiropody Clinic is held on Tuesday morning and afternoon each week at the Red Cross Centre, Walton Road, Woking.

## FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Under the auspices of the Family Planning Association advice may be obtained from the Red Cross Centre, Walton Road, Woking, between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

*Scarlet Fever.*—Only 15 cases were notified during the year but as is customary this disease is now so mild that many cases of an atypical nature occur, frequently with a very transient rash. There were no complications and from a point of view of control this infection is now of less importance than tonsillitis.

*Measles.*—1,174 cases were notified during the year, the majority occurring in children of early school life. Complications of this disease were negligible due to the value of sulphonamides and antibiotics in their prevention and treatment. There were no deaths. It is important, however, that the majority of such children should have their chests X-rayed after this infection, and this procedure is carried out invariably as a routine in the case of those admitted to hospital.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*—This notifiable condition was properly reported by the Woking Maternity Hospital in the majority of instances and it is defined as “any febrile condition occurring in a woman in whom a temperature of 100·4° Fahrenheit (38° centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after childbirth or miscarriage.” In many cases, therefore, it is of little significance, but it always requires investigations which eliminate the possibility of the rise of temperature being due to infective conditions which are themselves invariably now well controlled, again by the use of antibiotics.

Infectious Diseases, 1955

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE | CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT |               |        |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          |          |          | WARDS   |         |         |                        |                          |                                |            |                        | Cases admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |                          |             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   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|                    | At all Ages                      | At Ages—Years |        |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          |          |          | Byfleet | Central | Horsell | Knaphill and Brookwood | Maybury and Mount Hermon | Old Woking, Mayford and Sutton | St. John's | Woodham and Sheerwater |                            |              | West Byfleet and Pyrford |             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  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|                    |                                  | At Ages—Years |        |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |         |         |         |                        |                          |                                |            |                        |                            |              |                          |             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  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|                    |                                  | Under 1       | 1 to 2 | 2 to 3 | 3 to 4 | 4 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 25 | 25 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 65 |         |         |         |                        |                          |                                |            |                        |                            |              |                          | 65 and over |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  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| Whooping Cough     | 56                               | 4             | 5      | 2      | 7      | 12     | 26      | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —        | —       | —       | —       | —                      | —                        | —                              | —          | —                      | —                          | —            | —                        | —           | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 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— | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |



*Dysentery.*—All these cases notified were known to be caused by *B. sonnei* dysentery, and in the majority of cases the infection was mild, and in some cases the notification represented only that the person was a “carrier” of this condition. The infection can, however, be responsible for very acute symptoms, and special measures must be taken in the case of those employed in the food trade.

*Poliomyelitis.*—The district was fortunate in the relatively low number of notifications of 10 cases during the year, the majority of which were non-paralytic. One serious case only involved the respiration centre and subsequently made a good recovery. It is probable, however, that cases of the non-paralytic forms do not always come to light, but with the development of bacteriological culture methods it should be possible to identify the majority of cases of this disease in the future.

*Meningococcal Infection.*—One fatal case of this disease occurred in a child under one year of age.

The single cases of malaria and typhoid which were reported were both known to have been contracted abroad.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

There was again no recorded case of diphtheria during the year. The following figures give the Immunity Index at 31st December, 1955: this index shows the percentage of children who have, within the last five years, received either their first course of injections or a subsequent reinforcing dose.

| Immunity Index |           |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Under 1 year   | 1-4 years | 5-14 years |
| 4·3            | 64·2      | 60·8       |

During the year 337 children were given their primary course of immunisation and 585 their reinforcement doses. This work was carried out in clinics or at schools and an attempt is now made to visit each school each year although the programme is occasionally upset by the incidence of poliomyelitis when it may be desirable to suspend injections of all kinds. In addition private practitioners gave 353 primary immunisations and 113 reinforcing injections during the year.

It is most important to see that all children receive their first injections before reaching one year of age and it would seem that more than a hundred children during the year had not been immunised before they attended school.

## VACCINATION

518 children under 14 years of age and 186 adults were vaccinated during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

| AGE PERIODS    | NEW CASES |    |               |   | DEATHS    |   |               |   |
|----------------|-----------|----|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
|                | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |   | Pulmonary |   | Non-Pulmonary |   |
|                | M         | F  | M             | F | M         | F | M             | F |
| 0-1 .. ..      | —         | —  | —             | — | —         | — | —             | — |
| 1-5 .. ..      | —         | 1  | —             | — | —         | 1 | —             | — |
| 5-15 .. ..     | 2         | 1  | —             | — | —         | — | —             | — |
| 15-25 .. ..    | 7         | 16 | —             | 3 | —         | — | —             | — |
| 25-35 .. ..    | 10        | 11 | 2             | 3 | —         | — | —             | — |
| 35-45 .. ..    | 6         | 7  | —             | — | —         | 1 | —             | — |
| 45-55 .. ..    | 10        | 2  | —             | — | 1         | — | —             | — |
| 55-65 .. ..    | 3         | 2  | —             | — | 1         | — | —             | — |
| 65 and upwards | 1         | —  | —             | 1 | —         | — | —             | 1 |
| Totals ..      | 39        | 40 | 2             | 7 | 2         | 2 | —             | 1 |

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 88, as will be seen from the following table:—

|   |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|
| Number notified by General Practitioners    | .. | .. | 1  |
| Number notified by Institutions and Clinics | .. | .. | 36 |
| Number transferred to Woking                | .. | .. | 49 |
| Number notified after death                 | .. | .. | 2  |

The following table shows the number of cases notified annually since 1951, and the number of deaths which occurred:—

| YEAR | NUMBER ON REGISTER |     |               |    | DEATHS    |   |               |   |
|------|--------------------|-----|---------------|----|-----------|---|---------------|---|
|      | Pulmonary          |     | Non-Pulmonary |    | Pulmonary |   | Non-Pulmonary |   |
|      | M                  | F   | M             | F  | M         | F | M             | F |
| 1951 | 193                | 124 | 36            | 44 | 2         | 1 | 1             | 1 |
| 1952 | 229                | 155 | 38            | 41 | 5         | 3 | 1             | — |
| 1953 | 248                | 168 | 30            | 31 | 5         | 3 | —             | 1 |
| 1954 | 271                | 191 | 31            | 35 | 2         | 1 | —             | — |
| 1955 | 294                | 213 | 31            | 39 | 2         | 2 | —             | 1 |

The increased number of cases of tuberculosis on the register is largely due to the number of cases living in the new houses on the Sheerwater Estate—the number of houses built by the L.C.C. on this estate in 1955 was 53, and 26 additional cases on this estate were added to the register during the year.

### B.C.G. VACCINATION, 1955

| Age Group | Consent |                | Mantoux Test |           |         |           | Vaccination |                |
|-----------|---------|----------------|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------|----------------|
|           | No.     | % of Age Group | +ve No.      | % of Test | —ve No. | % of Test | No.         | % of Age Group |
| 715       | 315     | 44·1           | 52*          | 14·5      | 306     | 85·5      | 303         | 42·4           |

\* Includes some Mantoux Tests carried over from 1954.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

The County Council is responsible for care and after-care measures and these are supervised through local Committees. The funds available are derived from grants made through the County-rate and by voluntary effort. The Committees are responsible for arrangements in relation to such matters as holiday camps for children from tuberculous households, and occupational therapy materials.

Five families were rehoused by the Council in cases where a member of the family suffers from tuberculosis.



## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

The Surrey County Council is also responsible, in conjunction with the District Welfare Committee, for all matters relating to services provided under Section 29 and Section 30 of the National Assistance Act. Provisions are made for the registration of the blind and for such persons the services of education, home employment, the provision of books, the provision of homes and hostels, and the provision of financial payments are maintained. Much of the work in connection with the blind is carried out by the Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind in co-operation with the County Council. In addition the Council has extended the services to certain classes of partially sighted persons.

## SCHOOLS

There are in the district 17 Primary, 6 Secondary Modern, 2 Grammar and 21 Independent schools. It is customary for head teachers to notify the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer of absences from schools in the case of suspected infectious diseases, and mention has previously been made of the incidence of infection of a gastro-intestinal nature during the year which called for close co-operation between the Public Health Department and the School Health Service.

During the year all school canteens and kitchens were again sprayed with a solution of DDT for the purpose of limiting the fly and insect population in those premises. It is becoming clear, however, that certain types of insecticides are losing their value inasmuch as flies especially are acquiring resistance to the chlorinated hydro-carbon compounds.

## MILK SUPPLY

All milk sold in the Urban District is now required to be either heat treated in accordance with the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, or, if raw, to be derived from attested herds, and sold as Tuberculin Tested, to which the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations apply.

It is gratifying to report that the 73 samples of pasteurised milk, 8 samples of sterilised milk, and 8 samples of tuberculin tested (farm bottled) milk were all found to be satisfactory upon examination, and that no evidence of tuberculosis was found in the 7 samples of raw milk submitted for bacteriological examination.

Ninety-six samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the following tests:—

| Designation of Milk         | Phosphatase Test | Methylene Blue Test | Turbidity Test | Biological Test |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Pasteurised .. ..           | 46               | *43                 | —              | —               |
| T.T. Pasteurised .. ..      | 27               | 27                  | —              | —               |
| Sterilised .. ..            | —                | —                   | 8              | —               |
| T.T. farm bottled .. ..     | —                | 8                   | —              | —               |
| T.T. (from farm dairies) .. | —                | —                   | —              | 7               |

\* 3 samples were void because the overnight shade temperature exceeded 65° F.

### MILK PRODUCTS

Five samples of fresh cream and one strawberry flavour full cream milk drink, were taken during the year and submitted to the methylene blue test. All were found to be satisfactory, and in addition no faecal coli were isolated.

The phosphatase test gives an indication of efficiency or otherwise of pasteurisation, whilst the methylene blue test determines keeping quality and cleanliness. Efficiency of sterilisation is checked by means of the turbidity test and biological examination is used to detect any tuberculosis infection in milk.

### ICE CREAM

With the exception of a very small amount of ice-cream manufactured by one local trader during the summer, all the ice-cream sold in the Urban District is manufactured outside the district principally by firms of national repute.

Sampling carried out during the year showed that the bacteriological standard of the ice-cream sold has remained very high, over 92 per cent of the samples falling into either Grade I or II.

Follow-up action was taken regarding the four samples classified by the bacteriologist as either Grade III or IV and subsequent samples of the same products proved satisfactory.

Fifty-four samples were taken during the year and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford.

The sample results were as follows:—

|                    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Grade I            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 37 |
| Grade II           | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Grade III          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  |
| Grade IV           | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3  |
| Damaged in transit | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1  |



The samples are subjected to a methylene blue test which gives an indication of bacterial activity and in a percentage of cases the presence or absence of faecal coli is also determined. Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream, judgment is not based on any single sample but rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I or II, not more than 20% in Grade III and none in Grade IV.

### SWIMMING POOLS

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every 5 hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. The bacteriological standard of the water continued to be satisfactory. During 1955, the number of admissions were 128,186 as against 67,234 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.

### WATER SUPPLY

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking and District Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking and District Water Company's mains were extended 9,375 yards in the Urban District during 1955, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 787 yards.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

Eight samples of Company water were taken and found to be satisfactory. Chemical examinations are made by the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

*Wells.*—Eight houses are still dependent on shallow wells for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Some of these houses are too remote to make mains supply practicable. Five samples of these waters were taken during the year. All new houses are provided with a mains supply.

### DRAINAGE ARRANGEMENTS

In accordance with the Council's policy to provide main drainage in those parts of the urban district where none exists, consideration was given to the provision of drainage facilities in the Western Area. Plans for development had to be refused on the grounds that it would be



premature by reason of the deficiency in the sewerage service and before any large scale development could be permitted, it was necessary for a section of the Comprehensive Drainage Scheme to be carried out. It was decided to proceed with the extension of the Hoe Valley Sewer, which would give relief to the surcharge on the Western Trunk Sewer, and at the same time provide facilities in the Blackhorse Road and Saunders Lane areas. A detailed scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

Small sewer extensions have been carried out in Oak Lane, Mill Lane, Connaught Road and Blanchards Hill.

The Council's Consulting Engineers completed the final detail plans for the reconstruction of the Old Woking Disposal Works.

Consideration was also given to the present standard of the pumping stations in the district and the Consulting Engineers were asked to submit a report thereon as many of the stations have been in operation for a considerable number of years.

I am indebted to Mr. H. P. Tame, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, for his assistance in supplying this information.

1st May, 1955

**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is the tenth occasion upon which I have presented a report upon the work of your sanitary inspectors, thus providing an appropriate moment to review the changes brought about during these years. Since 1946 the population has increased by 12,870, and the number of inhabited houses by 4,331, resulting in a comparatively large district in which advice and assistance is requested with an ever increasing frequency.

It is with much regret that I have to report that the number of new houses constructed without facilities for main drainage has increased by 172 since 1939; the worsening of conditions in this respect is already evident by a gross pollution of ditches and water courses in some parts of the district and the steadily increasing problems in relation to sewage disposal from many of the recent property conversions. To anyone with a high regard for the health circumstances of our district the present trends cannot be viewed with equanimity. On a happier note it is pleasing to report that only eight occupied houses within the Urban District are without a supply of main water, and of these four could be connected without difficulty when circumstances permit. Population increases, allied to a shortage of labour, raise many difficulties in the sphere of public cleansing, and I find the maintenance of weekly collection schedules to be an increasing problem.

As sanitary inspectors we are never satisfied with our accomplishments, and indeed suffer much frustration from the delays which form an inevitable part of the post-war world in which we now live. Nevertheless these pages do represent a degree of achievement for which credit is due to the loyalty and zeal of my colleagues and the support and help afforded at all times by the Members of the Council.

Yours respectfully,

A. G. DAVIES,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*

## SANITARY INSPECTION

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

## (a) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1955:—

|   |    |    |    |       |
|---|----|----|----|-------|
| Inspections under Housing Act, 1936                 | .. | .. | .. | 426   |
| Inspections of dwellings under Public Health Acts   | .. |    |    | 1,747 |
| Inspections of dwellings occupied by applicants for |    |    |    |       |
| Council Houses                                      | .. | .. | .. | 19    |
| Enquiries <i>re</i> infectious diseases             | .. | .. | .. | 196   |
| Inspections of verminous premises                   | .. | .. | .. | 20    |
| Investigations <i>re</i> overcrowding               | .. | .. | .. | 6     |
| Inspection of slaughterhouses                       | .. | .. | .. | 306   |
| „    „    places of entertainment                   | .. | .. | .. | 1     |
| „    „    dairies                                   | .. | .. | .. | 13    |
| „    „    bakeries                                  | .. | .. | .. | 103   |
| „    „    movable dwellings                         | .. | .. | .. | 262   |
| „    „    factories                                 | .. | .. | .. | 161   |
| „    „    outworkers' premises                      | .. | .. | .. | 23    |
| „    „    cafés, restaurants, foodstalls            | .. | .. | .. | 262   |
| „    „    factory and school canteens               | .. | .. | .. | 18    |
| „    „    licensed houses and hotels..              | .. | .. | .. | 5     |
| „    „    other food premises                       | .. | .. | .. | 565   |
| „    „    mobile food vans                          | .. | .. | .. | 12    |
| „    „    premises where ice cream is manufactured, |    |    |    |       |
| stored or sold                                      | .. | .. | .. | 84    |
| „    „    drainage systems                          | .. | .. | .. | 411   |
| „    „    ditches and watercourses                  | .. | .. | .. | 29    |
| Drain tests   | .. | .. | .. | 31    |
| Inspections concerning smoke nuisance               | .. | .. | .. | 31    |
| „    „    Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)              | .. | .. | .. | 126   |
| „    „    rodent infestation (by Sanitary           |    |    |    |       |
| Inspectors)   | .. | .. | .. | 351   |
| „    „    pest control (by Sanitary In-             |    |    |    |       |
| spectors)   | .. | .. | .. | 75    |
| „    „    pollution of streams, etc.                | .. | .. | .. | 33    |
| „    „    refuse tips, etc.                         | .. | .. | .. | 442   |
| „    „    Pet Animals Act                           | .. | .. | .. | 2     |
| „    „    public conveniences                       | .. | .. | .. | 23    |
| „    „    swimming pools                            | .. | .. | .. | 14    |
| „    „    exhumations                               | .. | .. | .. | 3     |
| „    „    food poisoning                            | .. | .. | .. | 2     |
| Miscellaneous                                       | .. | .. | .. | 262   |
| Re-inspections                                      | .. | .. | .. | 2,201 |
|   |    |    |    | <hr/> |
|   |    |    |    | 8,265 |
|   |    |    |    | <hr/> |



(b) Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| External painting .. .. .                                 | 6   |
| Rooms cleansed .. .. .                                    | 15  |
| Wall plaster renewed or repaired .. .. .                  | 119 |
| Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired .. .. .               | 42  |
| Floors repaired .. .. .                                   | 75  |
| Natural lighting improved .. .. .                         | 12  |
| Room ventilation improved .. .. .                         | 16  |
| Sub-floor space ventilated .. .. .                        | 2   |
| Doors repaired or provided .. .. .                        | 37  |
| Window sashes and frames repaired or provided .. .. .     | 78  |
| Sash cords renewed .. .. .                                | 33  |
| Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired .. .. .         | 7   |
| Stoves and grates renewed or repaired .. .. .             | 38  |
| Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired .. .. .      | 6   |
| Sinks renewed or repaired .. .. .                         | 10  |
| Sink wastepipes renewed .. .. .                           | 12  |
| Food stores provided .. .. .                              | 4   |
| Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired .. .. . | 10  |
| Pail and water closets cleansed or repaired .. .. .       | 12  |
| Pail closets abolished .. .. .                            | 2   |
| W.C. fittings renewed or repaired .. .. .                 | 23  |
| New W.C.s provided .. .. .                                | 2   |
| W.C. pedestals renewed .. .. .                            | 13  |
| Houses connected to sewer .. .. .                         | 8   |
| R.W.P.s provided or repaired .. .. .                      | 43  |
| Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .                           | 56  |
| Drainage repaired, including soilpipes .. .. .            | 44  |
| Drains cleared of obstruction .. .. .                     | 79  |
| Yard paving repaired .. .. .                              | 5   |
| Sanitary dustbins provided .. .. .                        | 404 |
| Eaves gutters provided or repaired .. .. .                | 105 |
| Roofs repaired .. .. .                                    | 118 |
| Pointings renewed .. .. .                                 | 45  |
| Brickwork renewed .. .. .                                 | 10  |
| Damp proof course renewed .. .. .                         | 1   |
| Dampness remedied in other ways .. .. .                   | 141 |
| Water service pipes repaired .. .. .                      | 12  |
| Main water supply provided .. .. .                        | 4   |
| Cesspools repaired .. .. .                                | 1   |
| Offensive accumulations removed .. .. .                   | 12  |

*Food Premises*

|                                   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Hot water provided                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8  |
| Rooms cleansed                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 28 |
| Floors repaired or renewed        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| Wall surfaces repaired or renewed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9  |
| W.C. apartments ventilated        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2  |
| W.C. apartments cleansed          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6  |
| Refrigerators repaired            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3  |

*Factories*

|  |    |    |    |    |    |   |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Ceilings and walls cleansed              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Overcrowding abated                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Ventilation improved                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Conveniences unsatisfactory              | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Separate conveniences provided for sexes | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Other offences                           | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

*Bakehouses*

|  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Cleansed                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Samples of milk taken for analysis       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 96 |
| Samples of water taken for analysis      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 48 |
| Samples of ice-cream taken for analysis  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 54 |
| Verminous rooms fumigated, etc.          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 22 |
| Rooms disinfected after cases of disease | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |

During 1955 the following houses were connected to the public sewer:—

1, 2 and 3, Top Cottages, Blanchards Hill.  
 Maryknoll, Blanchards Hill.  
 Gabriel Cottage, Blanchards Hill.  
 The Gables, Blanchards Hill.  
 1-2, The Hollies, Oaks Lane.

## HOUSING

I.—*Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year*

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,173 |
| (b) Number of dwelling-houses [included under sub-head (a) above] which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 426   |
| (c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11    |

- (d) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 397

## II.—*Remedy of defects during the year*

- (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. . 231

Every effort is made to secure the repair or reconditioning of dwelling-houses by negotiation rather than statutory action. Where such action fails, formal notices are served under the appropriate statutory authority, the numbers for 1955 being:—

Preliminary Notices .. .. . 240

### Statutory Notices:—

|                                      |    |    |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75  | .. | .. | —  |
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93  | .. | .. | 62 |
| Public Health Act, 1936, Section 138 | .. | .. | 3  |
| Housing Act, 1936, Section 9         | .. | .. | 11 |

## III.—*Individual unfit houses*

- (a) Listed below are the dwellings inspected during 1955 and considered to be unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense:—

| No. of houses | Address   | Reported to Committee | Action taken                       |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2             | 1/2, Long Lane Cottages, Robinhood Road, Knaphill | 31.1.55               | Undertaking accepted not to re-let |
| 1             | Box Cottage, Littlewick Road, Knaphill            | 28.3.55               | „                                  |
| 2             | 1/2, Heath Cottages, Sandy Lane, Maybury          | 4.7.55                | „                                  |
| 2             | 1/2, Common Cottages, Old Woking Road             | 4.7.55                | „                                  |
| 1             | 6, Princess Road, Woking                          | 4.7.55                | „                                  |
| 1             | Railway Arch Cottage, Oyster Lane, Byfleet        | 4.7.55                | „                                  |
| 2             | 32/34, Princess Road, Woking                      | 3.10.55               | „                                  |



During the year the Council formulated plans to deal with unfit houses situated within the Urban District and considered to be incapable of repair at reasonable expense. As a result of a preliminary survey it is considered that approximately 90 houses will require to be dealt with either by way of individual demolition or clearance area procedure. There would appear to be no serious obstacle to the completion of all the necessary work in relation to these houses within the five-year period and plans have already been formulated concerning the action to be taken during 1956.

The demolition of all unfit houses in Woking appears capable of being achieved comfortably within the next five years and the necessity will thus not arise to seek the use of the new powers in relation to deferred demolition.

## FACTORY INSPECTIONS

### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises  | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|---|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|   |                          | Inspections | Written<br>notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities                        | 22                       | 19          | 1                  | —                       |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .                | 206                      | 142         | 17                 | —                       |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. | —                        | —           | —                  | —                       |
| Total .. .. .   | 228                      | 161         | 18                 | —                       |

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars  | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|--|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
|  | Found                                       | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)  | 2   | 2        | —                 | 2                 | —   |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ..  | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. .. .   | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. .. .   | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..   | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7)—   |   |          |                   |                   |   |
| (a) Insufficient ..  | 2   | 2        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..  | 9   | 9        | —                 | 6                 | —   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes .. ..   | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) .. .. . | —   | —        | —                 | —                 | —   |
| Total .. ..  | 13  | 13       | —                 | 8                 | —   |

Eighteen outworkers are numbered in the list required by Section 110(1)(c).

## MOVABLE DWELLINGS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of sites used for parking 2 or more caravans .. ..                       | 6   |
| Number of caravans on each site:  |     |
| Warren Farm, Pyrford .. .. . (41 for week-end use only)                         | 101 |
| The Cedars, Byfleet .. .. .   | 20  |
| Slapley's, Egley Road .. .. .   | 5   |
| Brewery Lane, Byfleet .. .. .   | 8   |
| Arden House, Byfleet .. .. .  | 36  |
| Vinery Nurseries, Byfleet .. .. .   | 6   |
| Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269 .. .. . | 1   |
| Number of licences renewed .. .. .  | 4   |

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The subject of clean air was a major topic of the year and culminated with the introduction of the Clean Air Bill. Whilst it is anticipated that there will be many changes before the Bill becomes law, the policy of the Government becomes clear and gives effect to the main recommendations of the Beaver Committee.

Thus there will be a prohibition on the emission of dark smoke, and an enforced reduction in the emission of grit and dust from existing industrial premises. New furnaces have to be designed with grit and dust-arresting equipment. Local authorities will be able to designate smoke control areas in which it will be an offence to emit smoke, and grants are anticipated of not less than 70% towards the cost of stove of grate adaptation.

Conversion to oil burning will be considered by many industrialists as the only effective answer to the problem of atmospheric pollution. The cost of conversion, the space requirements for oil storage, and the expense of keeping oil fluid in the pipe lines, are factors which have to be considered and overcome before any decisions can be made. The installation of oil burning equipment at the Brookwood Hospital and the conversion work now in progress at a factory with the highest employment figure in the district are two major circumstances considered to be of inestimable value to the smoke pollution problem of this Urban District.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Efforts to raise the hygienic standards of food premises show slow but steady progress. Definite proof exists of the value of regular inspections of premises by the many improvements that have been effected by the Inspectors as a result of these visits. Publicity of the right kind can of course achieve a lot of good and no opportunity has been lost to emphasise the need for clean habits in the handling of food.

There are increasing signs of a new awareness among the general public which has been lacking in the past although at the same time many people do not yet appear to recognise the power they have in their own hands by removing their custom from an unsatisfactory food shop, café or similar establishment.

During the year, when time permitted, lectures and talks on food hygiene were given to various groups of people, and were augmented when necessary by films, photographs and other visual aids, some of which were made by the staff.

The long-awaited consolidation of the law relating to Food and Drugs fructified at the end of the year with the passing of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which came into operation together with the



Food Hygiene Regulations on the 1st January, 1956. The extent to which these measures will be helpful to those endeavours already being made by public health departments to improve the purity and quality of the nation's food supplies remains for the future to decide.

At the end of the year there were 438 food premises in the urban district, classified as follows:—

|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| Bakehouses and bakers' shops      | .. | .. | .. | 29  |
| Butchers' shops                   | .. | .. | .. | 43  |
| Cafés and restaurants             | .. | .. | .. | 40  |
| Confectioners                     | .. | .. | .. | 50  |
| Fishmongers' and fried fish shops | .. | .. | 23 |     |
| Greengrocers                      | .. | .. | .. | 42  |
| Grocers                           | .. | .. | .. | 126 |
| Factory and school canteens       | .. | .. | .. | 47  |
| Licensed houses                   | .. | .. | .. | 38  |

Thirty-two premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture of sausages.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are two private slaughterhouses in the district, in addition to which a number of pigs are slaughtered at Brookwood Hospital. These are regularly inspected and all carcasses of animals slaughtered locally are examined.

All shops, stores, vehicles and places where food is prepared are visited regularly to ensure that hygienic standards are maintained.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 2 tons 2 cwt. 1 qr. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., together with 193 bottles of orange cordial, and 171 tins of milk.

|                   |    |    | TONS | CWT. | QR. | ST. | LB.              |
|-------------------|----|----|------|------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Tinned meat       | .. | .. | —    | 5    | 1   | 1   | 4                |
| Tinned fish       | .. | .. | —    | —    | 2   | —   | 7                |
| Tinned vegetables | .. | .. | —    | 2    | 1   | —   | 3                |
| Tinned fruit      | .. | .. | —    | 2    | —   | 1   | 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Tinned soup       | .. | .. | —    | —    | —   | —   | 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Meat              | .. | .. | 1    | 1    | 2   | —   | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| Fish              | .. | .. | —    | 1    | —   | —   | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Bacon             | .. | .. | —    | 2    | 1   | —   | 1                |
| Cheese            | .. | .. | —    | —    | 2   | 1   | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| Preserves         | .. | .. | —    | —    | —   | —   | 12               |
| Cereals           | .. | .. | —    | 1    | 1   | —   | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Sausages          | .. | .. | —    | —    | 1   | 1   | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| Dried Fruit       | .. | .. | —    | —    | 1   | 1   | 12               |
| Rice              | .. | .. | —    | 1    | —   | —   | —                |
| Miscellaneous     | .. | .. | —    | 1    | —   | 1   | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$  |
| Dried Milk Powder | .. | .. | —    | 1    | 2   | 1   | 1                |
| Total             | .. | .. | 2    | 2    | 1   | 0   | 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

|   | Cattle<br>excluding<br>cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  |
|---|-----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number killed .. .. .   | 209                         | 3    | 289    | 501                   | 1,885 |
| Number inspected .. .. .  | 209                         | 3    | 289    | 501                   | 1,885 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>  |                             |      |        |                       |       |
| Whole carcases condemned ..   | —                           | —    | 1      | —                     | 1     |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned ..                                    | 34                          | —    | —      | —                     | 65    |
| Percentage of the number in-<br>spected affected with disease<br>other than tuberculosis .. | 16·3                        | —    | 0·4    | —                     | 3·5   |
| <i>Tuberculosis only—</i>   |                             |      |        |                       |       |
| Whole carcases condemned ..   | —                           | 1    | —      | —                     | —     |
| Carcases of which some part<br>or organ was condemned ..                                    | 4                           | 1    | —      | —                     | 10    |
| Percentage of the number in-<br>spected affected with tuber-<br>culosis .. .. .             | 1·9                         | 33·3 | —      | —                     | 0·5   |

### ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The table which follows sets out the details of samples taken during the year under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Of the ten samples shown as being adulterated or otherwise irregular, none was of such serious nature as to warrant legal proceedings.

In one instance a sample of milk was found to be deficient in milk fat and in milk solids other than fat and in a further milk sample a slight deficiency in milk solids other than fat was found. In neither case, however, did the Hortvet test indicate the presence of added water. The milk producers in both cases were notified of these deficiencies and “follow-up” samples were found to conform to the legal standards.

A sample of flavoured milk showed a breach of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, in that the colouring matter was not declared; this was rectified as a result of representations made to the dairy concerned.

Five samples of sausages were reported upon as being somewhat below ordinary commercial quality. There is, however, at present no legal standard for the meat content of sausages although it is believed, and hoped, that the making of a new standard is imminent. In addition, two of these samples of sausages were found to contain preservatives which had not been declared on sale. Representations were made to the manufacturers in both cases and the required declarations have since been made.

It was found that one of the ingredients of a sample of children's

aspirin was not stated, and as a result of representations made to the manufacturing chemists concerned new labels were printed giving the ingredients in full.

A sample of dried skimmed milk powder was found to contain burnt dried milk, apparently due to faulty processing. As a result 98 lb. of this powder was voluntarily surrendered and disposed of for animal feeding purposes.

| Articles                      | Analysed |           |       | Adulterated or Irregular |           |       |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
|                               | Formal   | In-formal | Total | Formal                   | In-formal | Total |
| <i>Food:</i>                  |          |           |       |                          |           |       |
| Milk .. .. .                  | 39       | 7         | 46    | 2                        | 1         | 3     |
| Almonds—ground .. .. .        | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Beer .. .. .                  | 2        | —         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Biscuits—wafer .. .. .        | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cheese—processed .. .. .      | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cheese Spread .. .. .         | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cherries—cocktail .. .. .     | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Christmas Puddings .. .. .    | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cinnamon .. .. .              | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Coffee .. .. .                | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Condensed Milk .. .. .        | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Confectionery—sugar .. .. .   | 2        | 3         | 5     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cordial .. .. .               | 2        | 2         | 4     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Crab—dressed .. .. .          | 1        | 1         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cream—double .. .. .          | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Cream—sterilised .. .. .      | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Custard Powder .. .. .        | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Dates .. .. .                 | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Fishcakes .. .. .             | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Gin .. .. .                   | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Golden Raising Powder .. .. . | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Herring Roes .. .. .          | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Ice-Cream .. .. .             | 5        | —         | 5     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Jam .. .. .                   | 1        | 1         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Jelly .. .. .                 | —        | 2         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Ketchup, Tomato .. .. .       | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Lard .. .. .                  | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Lemonade Crystals .. .. .     | —        | 2         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Lemon—Still .. .. .           | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Margarine .. .. .             | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Marzipan .. .. .              | 1        | —         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Meat Paste .. .. .            | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Milk Powder—dried .. .. .     | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | 1         | 1     |
| Non-brewed Condiment .. .. .  | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Pepper .. .. .                | —        | 2         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Potato Powder .. .. .         | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Rice .. .. .                  | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |



| Articles                    | Analysed |           |       | Adulterated or Irregular |           |       |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
|                             | Formal   | In-formal | Total | Formal                   | In-formal | Total |
| Rice—ground .. .. .         | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Sauce .. .. .               | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Sausage—Frankfurter .. .. . | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Sausages—beef .. .. .       | 2        | 9         | 11    | —                        | 1         | 1     |
| Sausages—pork .. .. .       | 2        | 6         | 8     | —                        | 4         | 4     |
| Sausage meat—beef .. .. .   | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Soya Flour .. .. .          | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Squash—orange .. .. .       | 2        | —         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Table Creams .. .. .        | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Tea .. .. .                 | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Vinegar .. .. .             | 4        | —         | 4     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Whisky .. .. .              | 2        | —         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| <i>Drugs:</i>               |          |           |       |                          |           |       |
| Aspirin—Children's .. .. .  | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | 1         | 1     |
| Cough Syrup .. .. .         | —        | 2         | 2     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Tonic Syrup .. .. .         | —        | 1         | 1     | —                        | —         | —     |
| Totals .. .. .              | 72       | 65        | 137   | 2                        | 8         | 10    |

### WATER SUPPLY

The effort to secure a piped supply of water to every house in the district has continued and the eight houses enumerated below are the only properties from which drinking water supplies are now derived wholly from shallow wells:—

Fullers, Prey Heath.  
Hazel Cottage, Cowshott Common.  
2, The Boxes, Sutton.  
Holly Cottage, Pyrford Green.  
Boundary Cottage, Bagshot Road, Knaphill.  
Trigg's Lock, Sutton.  
Golf Course Cottage, Hook Heath.  
Fishers Farm, Lower Westfield.

Hazel Cottage and The Boxes are expected to be connected during 1956, Holly Cottage and Boundary Cottage are capable of being connected, but because of the following circumstances it would appear unlikely that any of the remaining houses will be supplied with a mains supply of water.

#### *Trigg's Lock, Sutton*

Nearest main is in Sutton Green Road near road to Wareham Farm

(approximately 2,100 feet). There is a private service pipe (not in good condition) to Runtley Wood Farm, nearest point of which is approximately 810 feet. Nearest point on other side of river—Sendholme Farm.

*Golf Course Cottage, Hook Heath*

Nearest main at Club House approximately 1,350 feet away.

*Fishers Farm, Lower Westfield*

Nearest main at Cartbridge, Send, approximately 1,600 feet away.

Private main to Ashburton House approximately 950 feet away.

*Fullers, Prey Heath*

Main in public highway approximately 900 feet away.

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

On one occasion only during the year was it found necessary to arrange a burial under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

## RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

As a result of the work of earlier years, rodent control presents no undue problem. The free service to dwelling-houses has been continued and a substantial amount of work is carried out on commercial premises.

During the year pest control activities have included advice and assistance in dealing with all the more common insect pests.

## THE CLEANSING SERVICES

### 1. *Refuse Collection*

The Department is responsible for the collection of refuse from premises in a district covering 24·55 square miles, a not inconsiderable function. At the 31st December, 1955, the premises were classified as follows:—

|                             |    |    |    |        |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|--------|
| Dwelling-houses             | .. | .. | .. | 14,928 |
| Shops                       | .. | .. | .. | 707    |
| Warehouses, factories, etc. | .. |    | .. | 140    |
| Licensed premises           | .. | .. | .. | 52     |
| Miscellaneous               | .. | .. | .. | 936    |

In general, weather conditions were reasonable at least after the heavy snows of January. On the 14th and 15th of January no services were operated due to the dangerous road conditions and all labour

was transferred to clearance of snow; the first time in ten years that the services were not operated.

Labour remains the permanent problem and based upon the average number of men normally available for refuse collection, the Department was in possession of 75,504 man hours (33 men at 44 hours) as against 79,872 (32 men at 48 hours) in 1939, approximately a 5·4% decrease. The following tabulation indicates the need for increased labour:—

|            |    |    | 1939   | 1955   | % increase |
|------------|----|----|--------|--------|------------|
| Population | .. | .. | 41,000 | 55,940 | 36%        |
| Premises   | .. | .. | 12,700 | 16,252 | 28%        |
| Bins       | .. | .. | 14,000 | 18,000 | 30%        |

Making no allowance for the substantial sickness and holiday requirements a minimum figure of 40 men is now required to provide a weekly collection of refuse in the Urban District. It has so far proved possible to complete the schedules by the working of a vast number of hours of overtime, an average over the past year of 290 hours per week. The cleft stick position in which we find ourselves cannot better be illustrated than by the point that should someone produce the extra number of men required, overtime would become unnecessary, the incomes of present staff would suffer a very serious curtailment, and immediately there would be a number of resignations. It is only through the agency of the overtime payments that many of the men are at present retained for our work.

### *Trade Refuse*

The Council undertakes a very large amount of trade refuse collection and disposal, some 98 organisations paying for the collection of refuse and 32 paying for the privilege of disposing of their own refuse. Local authorities' methods of charging for trade collections vary considerably, being influenced by the type and quantity to be removed. The chief necessity of a payment scheme is simplicity. It may have been the intention of legislators that all refuse produced in the course of trade or business should be classed as trade refuse, but legal decisions have led clearly to a circumstance in which it is the type of refuse which has to be considered and not the type of premises from which the refuse is derived. Consequently a good deal of refuse from business premises has to be collected as household refuse without any special payment. The amounts charged in Woking for the collection of trade refuse are based on quantity and do no more than cover the cost entailed. The charge in law must be reasonable and is not to include the cost of disposal.



## 2. *Vehicles*

The Council now maintains a fleet comparable in its modern conception with any authority in the country, and the regularity of refuse collection has been maintained in no small measure due to this mechanical achievement. Two new machines were purchased during the present year. All purchases are now fitted with diesel engines and we now have in all six machines of this type. In so far as fuel costs are concerned the following tabulation taken over a period of twelve months is not without interest.

### *Refuse Collection*

|                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 61,143 miles by nine vehicles on  |                           |
| 10,300 gallons of petrol          | .. = 5·9 miles per gallon |
| 13,282 miles by two vehicles on   |                           |
| 1,611 gallons of diesel oil       | .. = 8·2 miles per gallon |
| Total mileage (exclusive of fore- |                           |
| man) .. .. .                      | 74,425                    |

### *Cesspool Emptying*

|                                   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 25,406 miles by three vehicles on |                            |
| 4,038 gallons of petrol           | .. = 6·3 miles per gallon  |
| 8,541 miles by one vehicle on     |                            |
| 815 gallons of diesel oil         | .. = 10·4 miles per gallon |

These figures show a saving of approximately 2d. per mile on refuse collection machines and 3d. per mile on cesspool emptying machines.

The gravity packing principle of the fore and aft tipper appears to give clear advantages over packing by means of the hydraulic operated rear plate, and for this reason my present view is to favour the type which we have recently been purchasing.

## 3. *Refuse Disposal*

The Council is required to provide disposal facilities for some 18,000 tons of collected household refuse, an additional 3,000 tons received from the Chertsey Urban District Council and more than 2,000 tons of material deposited by way of trade waste; 60% of this material constitutes dust and cinders, but the very serious problem involved in securing adequate supplies of covering material may eventually necessitate the introduction of a mechanical screening plant in order that ash content may be salvaged for top dressing purposes.

Disposal in Woking is now carried out mainly by the two diesel type Fordson muledozers, the older of which had been in use only five months at the 31st March. The work is spread over a number of sites and refuse is received from an adjoining authority.

#### 4. *Cesspool Emptying*

Cesspool emptying creates a problem of equal urgency with refuse collection largely because it has not been found possible to restrict the number of new houses on cesspool drainage. Before the war 530 cesspool drained properties received seven clearances a year, a total of 3,710 clearances in all; during the year under review we made 2,856 clearances from 701 cesspools, an average of four clearances each. The increase in the number of cesspools is aggravated again by the shorter working week and inability to secure staff for the work.

The service and the cost is summarised below:—

|                                     |    |    |    |        |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|--------|
| Total vehicle mileage               | .. | .. | .. | 28,387 |
| Number of loads of sewage removed   | .. |    |    | 5,090  |
| Vehicle miles per load of sewage    |    |    |    | 5·6    |
| Total estimated expenditure         | .. | .. |    | £5,277 |
| Approximate cost per load of sewage | .. |    |    | 20·8/- |
| Approximate cost per house          | .. | .. |    | £7·6   |

#### 5. *Conclusions*

Many factors influence the maintenance of good cleansing services and in a large and rapidly developing district such as Woking it is not easy to achieve success in the face of the ever-widening breach between labour and urban development. That it has so far been found possible to do so is due in no small measure to the willingness of the Council to approve and support improvement in the type of equipment used. I appreciate very much indeed the continued support which I have had in this way.

It is to be regretted that cesspool emptying is not on a more satisfactory basis and in the event of labour being available, the provision of an additional machine or even two machines in the normal course of events would be an urgent necessity. The completion of the Hoe Valley sewer will, however, effect a very substantial reduction in the number of cesspools and the Council is advised against increasing the number of cesspool emptying vehicles if the sewer extension can be expected within the next two to three years.